

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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FRANCOIS MAURIAC, FIGARO COLUMNIST, PUBLICLY RESIGNED YESTER-  
DAY AS PRESIDENT OF FRANCE-MAGHREB COMMITTEE. IN SIGNED ARTICLE  
IN FIGARO LITTERAIRE. REASON INDICATED IS THAT CERTAIN  
GAULLISTS ARE NOT ABOVE DISLOYAL ATTITUDE TOWARD DE GAULLE  
AND HIS REGIME AS CONCERNS BEN BARKA AFFAIR. AT END HE CANNOT  
RESIST TEMPTATION OF FACILE INSINUATION THAT CIA SOMEHOW  
INVOLVED. CLOSING PARAGRAPHS FOLLOW:

THESE BULLETS SHOT FROM OUR OWN RANKS OBLIGE ME TO RESIGN  
AS PRESIDENT OF FRANCE-MAGHREB COMMITTEE, WHICH BEN BARKA  
AFFAIR HAS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE. AS MATTER OF FACT, I WAS  
UNWILLINGLY BROUGHT BACK TO LIKE MYSELF, FORCED TO SIGN,  
THESE LAST FEW DAYS, COMMUNIQUE WHICH I HAD NOT DRAFTED.  
IT IS TRUE THAT I APPROVED THEIR CONTENTS, IN SPIRIT AND IN  
LETTER -- BUT NOT ALL THE INTENTIONS BEHIND THEM. I DO NOT  
WANT PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO BELIEVE THAT I AGREE WITH THOSE  
GAULLISTS WHO, IN ORDER TO FIRE AT THE MINISTERS OF DE GAULLE,  
HAVE WAITED FOR MOMENT OF AMBUSH.

"YES, AMBUSH. WHO COULD DOUBT IT? EITHER SHORTLY BEFORE OR  
SHORTLY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION /SIC/ OF BEN BARKA (I CANNOT  
FIND DATE OF VISIT IN QUESTION). A MOROCCAN FRIEND WHO KNOWS  
WHAT LIES UNDER THE CARDS TALKED TO ME ABOUT CLOSE RELATIONSHIP  
OF GENERAL OUFKIR AND AMERICAN SECRET SERVICES. HOW MUCH  
TRUTH THERE IS IN THIS I DO NOT KNOW. THE FACT REMAINS THAT  
FOR ONCE THESE /AMERICAN/ SERVICES HAVE NOW CARRIED OUT A  
DOUBLE STROKE AGAINST THIRD WORLD IN GETTING RED OF BEN BARKA,  
AND AGAINST DE GAULLE. IF THE AMERICAN SERVICES ARE INNO-CENT  
IN THIS AFFAIR, THEN IT IS THE DEVIL HIMSELF WHO HAS BEEN  
PLAYING ROLE IN THEIR STEAD".

THIS PASSAGE CITED IN TODAY'S FIGARO, JUST ABOVE BOX QUOTING  
DEPARTMENT'S JANUARY 26 DENIAL OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN BEN  
BARKA AFFAIR. CITED ALSO THIS MORNING IN EUROPE ONE RADIO  
BROADCAST.

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28 JAN 1966

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-2- 4409, JAN 27, FROM PARIS

MY INCLINATION AT THE MOMENT IS NOT TO PROTEST THIS INSIDIOUS INSINUATION. YESTERDAY'S NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR CARRIED AN ACCOUNT OF A MEETING OF LEFTWING GAULLISTS IN MAURIAC'S APARTMENT LAST FRIDAY WITH PICTURE OF MINISTER INTERIOR FREY ARRIVING AT MAURIAC'S ADDRESS. FREY IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "IT IS INDEED NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT AMERICAN AGENTS OF THE CIA MAY HAVE HAD SOME INFLUENCE IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE KIDNAPPING". MAURIAC'S CONTRIBUTION PROBABLY STEMS, THEREFORE, FROM THIS MEETING. MAURIAC IS WIDELY KNOWN AS SORE-HEAD AND CONSEQUENTLY NOT TAKEN FULLY SERIOUSLY. I BELIEVE OUR REPEATED DENIAL AT THIS POINT WOULD SERVE TO KEEP ALIVE A STORY THAT WILL

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OTHERWISE DIE ON ITS OWN. CURRENT TENDENCY IN FRANCE, AS INITIATED READERS RECOGNIZE, IS TO BLAME ALL THINGS ADVERSE ON CIA.

HOWEVER, WE SHALL WATCH THIS PARTICULAR ACCUSATION AND IF IT PERSISTS OR DEVELOPS FURTHER WE SHALL THEN TAKE SUCH STEPS AS SEEM INDICATED TO CONTAIN RUMORS. BOHLEN

BT

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